
PAM #: 33

Measure:

Number of coastal and Great Lakes States and Territories that have adopted, for all coastal recreational waters, water quality criteria for E.coli or enterococci.

Methodology for Computing:

This is a cumulative measure that only applies to the 35 coastal and Great Lakes states and territories. The baseline for this indicator is 11, which is comprised of the states/territories of Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, Delaware, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Guam, and American Samoa. Regional Water Quality Standards Coordinators identified these states/territories as already having adopted criteria for enterococci or E. coli in January 2004.

To compute the targets, Regions should consider each coastal and Great Lake state and territory that has not yet adopted the criteria, and assess the expected progress by those states and territories to adopt the criteria. If the Region expects that the state or territory will adopt the criteria, both geometric mean and upper percentile value, in a given year, that state or territory should be counted for that year. Please note that a state or territory should have adopted and submitted the criteria, but need not have EPA approval to be counted under this measure (this is consistent with the BEACH Act).

Coastal recreation water is defined in CWA section 502(21) as the Great Lakes and marine coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that are designated under section 303(c) by a State for use for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar water contact activities. This definition is broader than just waters adjacent to beaches. If a state has only adopted these criteria for beaches, which is a portion of the coastal recreation waters, Regions should not count the state as having met this measure.

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